

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<http://oversight.house.gov>

January 19, 2018

Mr. Paul Wiedefeld
General Manager
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Wiedefeld:

On January 15, 2018, a 7000 series Metrorail Red Line train traveling in the direction of Glenmont derailed passing over a cracked rail in the tunnel between the Farragut North and Metro Center stations.¹ However, according to Metro officials, the area of track containing the cracked rail underwent routine ultrasonic testing on August 9, 2017, and October 2, 2017, and was inspected three times in January 2018 with no problems reported.²

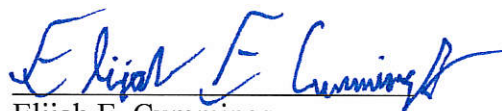
During the January 15 incident, Metro officials also acknowledged there were radio communication problems between Metro workers above ground and below ground after the derailment, potentially caused by spotty communications coverage in this area of tunnel.³ Communication problems in the WMATA system appear to be a recurring issue.⁴

To assist the Committee's oversight of this issue, please arrange to brief Committee staff on this matter as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2018. Please contact Cameron Connor of the majority staff at (202) 225-5074 or Cameron.Connor@mail.house.gov or Lucinda Lessley of the minority staff at (202) 225-5051 or Lucinda.Lessley@mail.house.gov with any questions about this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Trey Gowdy
Chairman

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

¹ E.g., *Metro: Red Line track had been inspected 3 times this month before derailment*, WJLA, January 16, 2018.

² *Id.*

³ Matt Ackland, *After train derailment, Metro says it has identified fix for spotty communication problems*, FOX 5, January 16, 2018.

⁴ Letter from Jason Chaffetz, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, et al, to Paul Wiedefeld, Gen. Manager, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (October 7, 2016).

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Mark Meadows

Chairman

Subcommittee on Government Operations



Gerald E. Connolly

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Government Operations



Eleanor Holmes Norton

Member

Subcommittee on Government Operations